

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method, comprising:
  - 2 detecting the processing of a graphics application;
  - 3 inspecting selective contents of a processor at intervals during the
  - 4 processing;
  - 5 dynamically presenting the selective contents to a display at the defined
  - 6 intervals.
  
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - 2 inspecting additional selective contents of a graphics driver at the intervals
  - 3 during the processing; and
  - 4 dynamically presenting the additional selective contents at the defined
  - 5 intervals.
  
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein inspecting further includes examining
- 2 hardware performance counters of the processor.
  
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein inspecting further includes acquiring zone
- 2 rendering information as the selective contents.
  
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein presenting further includes presenting
- 2 portions of the selective contents as a graphical bar which grows larger as more
- 3 activity is detected within the processor during the processing and which grows
- 4 smaller as less activity is detected with the processor during the processing.
  
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein presenting further includes associating and
- 2 presenting labels with portions of the selective contents within a display window.

1       7.     The method of claim 6 wherein associating and presenting further includes  
2     presenting the labels as at least one of a total pixels rendered label, a polynomial  
3     entering rendering label, and a polynomial entering a hard ware binner label.

1       8.     A method, comprising:  
2              retrieving performance data associated with a processing graphics  
3     application;  
4              dynamically updating a presentation of the retrieved performance data as the  
5     graphics application processes.

1       9.     The method of claim 8 wherein retrieving further includes determining a  
2     period for retrieving the performance data based on a predefined period.

1       10.    The method of claim 8 wherein periodically retrieving further includes  
2     determining a period for retrieving the performance data based on at least one of a  
3     randomly generated period and detection of an event.

1       11.    The method of claim 8 wherein periodically retrieving further includes  
2     inspecting memory associated with a processor and a graphics driver to retrieve the  
3     performance data.

1       12.    The method of claim 11 wherein periodically retrieving further includes  
2     retrieving zone rendering information from the memory related to rendering a three-  
3     dimensional image.

1       13.    The method of claim 8 further comprising linking portions of the graphics  
2     application to the processing of the method.

1    14.    The method of claim 13 further comprising dynamically presenting the  
2    presentation within a portion of a display that presents the graphics data of the  
3    graphics application.

1    15.    A system, comprising:  
2              a graphics monitor; and  
3              a graphics display interface, wherein the graphics monitor processes while a  
4    graphics application processes and inspects selective contents of a processor at  
5    intervals, and wherein the selective contents are communicated to the graphics  
6    display interface to be dynamically presented at the intervals on a display.

1    16.    The system of claim 15 wherein the graphics monitor also inspects  
2    additional selective contents associated with a graphics driver and communicates the  
3    additional selective contents to the graphics display interface where they are  
4    dynamically and concurrently presented at the intervals on the display with the  
5    selective contents.

1    17.    The system of claim 15 wherein the selective contents are related to at least  
2    one of zone-rendering information and double-data-rate synchronous dynamic  
3    random access memory speed information.

1    18.    The system of claim 15 wherein the graphics display interface presents the  
2    selective contents within a graphic window of the display.

1    19.    The system of claim 18 where the graphic window is overlaid on one or  
2    more additional windows which are presented as a result of the processing graphics  
3    application within the display.

1    20.    A machine accessible medium having associated instructions, which when  
2    accessed, results in a machine performing:

3                monitoring performance data associated with a processing graphics  
4    application; and

5                dynamically updating a presentation of the performance data on a display at  
6    periodic intervals.

1    21.    The medium of claim 20 wherein the graphics application is an application  
2    related to an electronic game.

1    22.    The medium of claim 20 further including instructions for acquiring the  
2    performance data from a processor that is processing the graphics application and  
3    from a graphics driver associated with the processing of the graphics application.

1    23.    The medium of claim 20 wherein the performance data is related to zone  
2    rendering associated with graphics data that the graphics application is processing.

1    24.    The medium of claim 23 wherein the graphics data is related to one or more  
2    three-dimensional objects.

1    25.    An apparatus, comprising:

2                monitor logic linked to selective portions of a graphics application; and

3                monitor interface logic interfaced to the monitor logic and to a display  
4    associated with the graphics application, wherein during execution of the graphics  
5    application the monitor logic is invoked and dynamically inspects selective memory  
6    contents associated with a processor and graphics driver and communicates the  
7    contents to the monitor interface logic, the monitor interface logic presents the  
8    contents within a graphical window of the display.

1    26.    The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the graphic window is concurrently  
2    updated and displayed as an overlay to one or more additional graphical windows  
3    within the display which present graphical data associated with the processing  
4    graphics application.

1    27.    The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the monitor interface logic can suspend  
2    or restart the processing of the monitor logic.

1    28.    The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the monitor logic is configured to inspect  
2    the selective memory contents during at least one of pre-defined intervals and  
3    randomly generated intervals.